



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **State To Enter Into Negotiations for Hearst Ranch**

**[Sacramento]**—The California Resources Agency announced today that the Coastal Conservancy and the Hearst Corporation have agreed to enter into direct negotiations for possible public acquisition of conservation and access interests covering the approximately 82,000-acre Hearst Ranch on the San Luis Obispo County coast. The American Land Conservancy, a nonprofit organization that has an option to purchase certain interests in the property from Hearst, will remain involved in the public acquisition effort.

The Coastal Conservancy will be acting on behalf of itself and other state agencies, including the Wildlife Conservation Board, Department of Parks and Recreation and Department of Fish and Game, at the direction of Mary Nichols, Secretary for Resources.

“With its 18 miles of shoreline, the Hearst Ranch offers tremendous opportunities to protect a vast area of the coast. This will allow the public to permanently preserve views from the Hearst Castle and Highway 101 and enjoy pristine beaches in a scenic environment,” said Secretary Nichols. “We will work diligently to develop an agreement regarding the Hearst Ranch that will meet the interests of both the public and the property owner.”

“We are making great progress with our partnership with the American Land Conservancy,” said Steve Hearst, Vice President of the Hearst Corporation’s Sunical Land Division. “It is very encouraging to have the involvement of the state now added to the strong support of so many diverse interests for the preservation of the ranch.”

The terms of any proposed public purchase will be released prior to the approval of public funds for acquisition. The Coastal Conservancy will also keep the public informed about any action that would commit the state to an acquisition.

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-Hearst Ranch – 2-2-2-

The American Land Conservancy is preparing resource studies of the property in support of public acquisition, as well as other project-related due diligence. The state also expects to develop its own studies in connection with the potential public acquisition, including an appraisal for the fair market value of the property and the interests that may be acquired. Completion of this work is expected to take at least six months.

The Coastal Conservancy is a state agency that works with the people of California to protect and improve the coast and San Francisco Bay. The conservancy has helped open over 80 miles of coast and bay shores to the public and preserve over 100,000 acres of wetlands, wildlife habitat, parks, and farmland.

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